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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,224	11/25/2003	Douglas Chiang	031024.SU (15819/127)	6705
23595	7590	02/02/2006	EXAMINER	
NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, P.A. 900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH SUITE 820 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402				PILKINGTON, JAMES
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		3682		

DATE MAILED: 02/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/722,224	CHIANG ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
James Pilkington	3682	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 April 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
 , 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - Characters 120 and 121 are present in Figure 3 but are not discussed in the detailed description.
 - Character 4, in prior art Figure 6, is not discussed in the background of the invention

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claim 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fraiman, U.S.P. No. 5,782,139.

Regarding claim 1, Fraiman discloses a bicycle handlebar centerpiece assembly that comprises a central fitting section (4) and two wings (6,8) integrally connected to the ends of the central fitting section. The wings (Fig. 3 and 4) have a tear-shaped cross section that comprises a long and a short axis that orthogonally intersect.

Regarding claim 2, Fraiman discloses a bicycle handlebar centerpiece assembly wherein the central fitting section has a circular cross section (Fig. 4,5 and 8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fraiman in view of Taylor, U.S.P. No. 5,429,013.

Regarding claim 3, Fraiman discloses all of the claim limitations, as above. In addition, Fraiman discloses adding armrests (52) to the centerpiece assembly (Fig.9).

Fraiman fails to disclose the use of a recess for the attachment of the armrests.

Taylor teaches the use of a recess (Fig. 3) defined by an outer periphery that is designed to engage the central fitting section for the purpose of providing for a removable and adjustable connection.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Fraiman to provide a recess on the armrests to provide for a removable and adjustable connection, as taught by Taylor.

Regarding claim 4, Fraiman discloses all of the claim limitations as above.

Fraiman fails to disclose the use of a C-shaped member mounted to the central fitting section.

Taylor teaches using C-shaped members (4) mounted to the central fitting section (Fig. 4, 7B, and 8A). Two bolts (Fig. 3) are used to connect the C-shaped

members to the bars on the other side of the central fitting section for the purpose of providing for a removable and adjustable connection.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ the use of a C-shaped member, as taught by Taylor, to secure the armrests to the central fitting section to provide for a removable and adjustable connection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Pilkington whose telephone number is (571) 272-5052. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on (571) 272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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RICHARD W. RIDLEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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